



EXHIBIT 6
DATE 3/31/09
SB 343

House Agriculture Committee, Representatives:

Jopek, Mike (D) (Chair)
Butcher, Edward (R) (Vice Chair)
French, Julie (D) (Vice Chair)
Bean, Russell (R)
Belcourt, Tony (D)
Caferro, Mary (D)
Dickenson, Sue (D)
Fleming, John (D)
Furey, Timothy (D)
Hoven, Brian (R)
Howard, David (R)
Kerns, Krayton (R)
MacDonald, Margaret (D)
McClafferty, Edith (D)
Randall, Lee (R)
Regier, Keith (R)
Roundstone, J. David (D)
Taylor, Janna (R)
Wagner, Bob (R)
Warburton, Wendy (R)

March 31, 2009

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on S 343. The Clark Fork Coalition is comprised of 1,500 members dedicated to protecting and restoring the Clark Fork River watershed, a 22,000-square-mile basin in western Montana.

We urge you to pass SB 343, as it will protect Montana's resources by working to thwart the spread of aquatic invasive species like the quagga and zebra mussels.

- **Non-native aquatic organisms cause enormous economic damage.** These mussels attach to water intake pipes, hydropower facilities, boat hulls and propellers, dock pilings, submerged rocks and even other aquatic animals.
- **This bill is cost effective means of keeping our lakes, rivers, and our agricultural infrastructure free from invasive species.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimated the zebra mussel alone generated *an economic loss of \$5 billion* for the nation's industries and communities between 1993-99.
- **They're getting too close—we must ACT NOW.** The quagga mussel is firmly established in Nevada's Lake Mead along Highway 93. The zebra mussel is already at the border of eastern Washington.

Federal stimulus dollars will be used wisely and efficiently to help protect Montana's waters by passing SB 343. Thank you for your time and dedication to protecting Montana's agricultural natural resources. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Karen Knudsen, Executive Director

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